

PHONE OPERATORS TO HELP KEYMEN

Promise Is Given That Girls
Will Be Organized to Join
in Fight.

THOMAS IS ENCOURAGED

Telegraphers' Leader Will
Confer With A. F. of L.
Executive Council.

The disappointment of the striking telegraphers of New York city in the failure of the threatened electrical workers' walkout to come to pass was relieved yesterday afternoon when Miss Julia O'Connor, president of the telephone department of the American Federation of Labor, and Miss May Matthews, secretary of the same organization, promised the keymen that New York telephone operators would be organized immediately and lend their aid to the fight.

Miss Matthews, who came down from Boston to address a mass meeting of telegraphers in East Fifteenth street yesterday, declared Burleson's concession to the electrical workers was solely brought about by the successful strike of telephone operators in New England.

Going to Atlantic City.

Mr. Thomas will leave for Atlantic City tomorrow to confer with the executive council of the American Federation of Labor. That body will demand of Mr. Burleson the same concessions for telegraphers that he granted the electrical workers.

"This is a case of rank discrimination and it will be put up to President Wilson," said Thomas. "I believe we are confident we will not fail to see the point. Powerful interests are determined that the telephone and telegraph operators of the country shall not be organized."

"If Burleson refuses, what does it establish? It simply means that on the advice of Newcomb Carlton and his cohorts the officials he engaged the electrical workers to join in the strike of electrical workers."

Thomas characterized as a pretty bit of camouflage the promise of the Western Union after the strike was declared that it would pay a million dollars back wages to its employees. If the company honestly means to do this, he said, then the strikers must receive their share of the million, but he doubted that the company would ever pay a nickel to any employee.

Replying to Mr. Carlton's statement that he would supply expert Morse operators to take the place of the 3,500 telephone operators who may strike on Thursday, Thomas said that was impossible, as it required months of training to fit operators for these posts.

Two Telegrams Sent Broadcast.

These two telegrams were sent broadcast over the wires:

"New York, June 15: In view of the importance of the Order of Railroad Telegraphers to its members, we have decided to handle Western Union commercial business, commencing Saturday, messages for joint relief must be accepted subject to the strike instructions already issued provide for the mailing of such messages from the nearest commercial relay point."

"R. H. Hyatt, District Commercial Superintendent, Western Union."

From the Postal: "Supp. Reynolds, Buffalo, advises Lockport, N. Y. is the only outside office in western New York where any employee remained away from duty for the latest fight. What few operators failed to report to Buffalo state they will report for work Monday."

"Not a single office in the Pittsburgh district except the city of Pittsburgh affected. Men are returning in Pittsburgh. All men have returned at Jacksonville, Fla., and Atlanta, Ga."

BURLESON PUZZLES

STRIKING KEYMEN

Charge Made That He Is in League With Carlton.

Special Despatch to The Sun.

WASHINGTON, June 15.—Striking telegraphers are at a loss to explain the action of the Postmaster-General, taken yesterday, in directing that the telephone companies must take up grievances of their employees within five days after they are presented, this being one of the things the telegraph operators have been trying to force upon the Postmaster-General.

Members of the telegraphers' grievance committee declared to-night that they are fighting the Postmaster-General was fighting the right of collective bargaining to the telephone workers, and denying it to the telegraph workers.

The strikers here are determined to take their case to Congress, and a committee of one hundred of them will go to the Capitol tomorrow and present a memorandum of the situation to every Senator and Representative.

Copies of the same memorandum have been mailed to every labor body in the United States. This memorandum follows:

"To Members of Congress:

"Representing commercial telegraphers now on strike and the workers of the United States as a body, we submit the following brief statement of our case and ask an expression of your views, particularly on the first proposition:

"As workers and taxpayers we protest against the machinery and funds of the Government being used in the interest of the telegraph companies in fighting the right of collective bargaining as officially announced by Postmaster-General Burleson through the public press."

"We claim as justification for the strike that the Postmaster-General since he assumed control of the wire systems has at all times refused to receive and consider our complaints of discrimination against union employees and our requests for adjustment of wage scales, but instead has adopted a policy of retaliation by inaugurating rules and regulations which reduce our earnings and increase our daily work, thereby intensifying the unrest already acute."

"We also claim that Mr. Burleson has used his personal and official influence to prevent an adjustment of differences between the workers and their employers. We demand the right to belong to a labor union and the right to bargain collectively."

"Reinstatement of all workers discharged in 1918 and 1919 for membership in a trade union or for legitimate trade union activities."

"Standardization of salaries with an agreement that will stop the individual wage reductions now being practiced."

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The United States Department of Agriculture and the State Agricultural Department, through the Nassau County Farm Bureau, were aware that the pests were coming. Several days ago they issued a warning to the farmers of that locality that they were due, but the locusts have come from the ground, where they take their seventeen-year siesta, in numbers that surprised even the scientific people.

Pest Has to Run Its Course.

Unfortunately there is nothing that can be done to check the pest. It just has to run its course. And the extent of its depredations will apparently depend upon the vagaries of the locusts' strength and taste and upon the weather. Yesterday there flew a locust which was estimated to be the size of a locust, but the locusts were migrating out of the twenty-mile square, where they have appeared on Long Island, and officials of the Nassau County Farm Bureau refused to estimate the extent of the ravage or the damage that might be done to crops.

The chief anxiety of the farmers affected so far relates to their fruit trees. The locust requires a woody fibre in which to lay its eggs—it is in the egg laying process that the damage is done—and it is not until the eggs are hatched and the young locusts are hatched that the damage is done. No spray or other prophylactic is effective, because the locust is a "sucking" bug. It lives by sucking the sap of trees rather than by the devouring of the foliage.

The foliage is destroyed because the female of the species—more deadly than the male—is equipped with an extremely long, ordinary locust, which is an ovipositor. With this she digs a deep trench through the bark of the tree and deposits her eggs in the trench.

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